

earnings. Over her lifetime, a woman will see a reduction in her savings for retirement, including Social Security and pension plans, and in her ability to save for lifetime goals such as buying a home and paying for a college education.

In the 111th Congress, I was the first female Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, and as such I made a commitment to look at women's current role in the economy through numerous reports and hearings. As a capstone, in December 2010, the Committee issued a comprehensive report compiling research done by the Committee, testimony from several hearings, and GAO reports assessing the detrimental gender wage gap for part-time workers and older Americans as well as wider discussions of women's continued underrepresentation in management level positions and the positive impact of health care reform and financial reform on women and their families. As I said in that report, "The decisions we make today will have dramatic impacts on our nation's future economic well-being, and we must carefully consider what those decisions will mean for women, both as consumers and as producers."

Regardless of demographics, industries, occupations or education, gender wage discrimination touches nearly every family. When you discriminate against a woman, you discriminate against her husband, her children, her entire family. In these economically difficult times, more than ever women find themselves to be the sole or primary household breadwinner, which means the wage gap undermines the economic security of our nation's families.

The persistence and stagnation of the gender wage gap is inexcusable. That is why I am proud to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that provides women with the tools to fight wage discrimination and improve the economic security of working families. I urge my colleagues to stand up for the basic rights and fairness of 51% of the U.S. population.

CONGRATULATING JOE REAGAN
AND JOE SWEENEY FOR THEIR
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the promise of our great nation depends on each generation working to leave this country a better place than they found it. Men and women of great service dedicate their lives to the ideals of such a promise. I rise today to honor two public servants, Joe Reagan and Joe Sweeney, as they end their public careers in service to the citizens of Brentwood, Tennessee.

All across America, small towns and large cities depend on the leadership, vision, and service of their local elected officials. First elected as City Commissioner in 1992, Joe Reagan's dedication to the City of Brentwood extends far beyond his official title. Reagan's emphasis on community development and sustained growth assisted the city in attaining the highest city bond rating possible, ushered her into the new world of internet and social media, and facilitated the opening of centers of great commerce for Brentwood.

One person making a commitment to public service could truly make a difference. The dedicated work and service of Joe Sweeney embodies such a long-lasting truth. Beginning his service in 1972 to one of Tennessee's finest communities, Sweeney was elected to serve the three year old City of Brentwood. Under his 39 year watch, Brentwood grew from 958 households to over 40,000 residents; from a city staff of 15, to an expanded library of 55,000 square feet; and from 64.13 city road miles, to almost 1,000 acres of city parks. Serving several terms in city leadership positions, I am confident Joe Sweeney's fidelity to the City of Brentwood, as well as the higher calling to public service, is what helped to bring Brentwood into a position of prominence in the great state of Tennessee.

Dr. Joseph Warren, one of devoted Found Fathers, encouraged the patriots of the young colonies to "act worthy of yourselves." Mr. Speaker, in an age where devotion to public service is not the norm, it is my privilege to

acknowledge two public servants who live Dr. Warren's call. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joe Reagan and Joe Sweeney for their lasting example in devotion to the work of public service.

EXPLANATION REGARDING VOTE
AGAINST THE SHORT-TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON APRIL 9, 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, at 12:40 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, I voted against the most recent short-term continuing resolution to keep government running for another seven days.

I was one of 42 Democrats who voted against this short-term extension, which passed 348 to 70. I voted "no" in protest of the irresponsible way the Republican leadership has handled these funding negotiations and to register my strong concern about what the next appropriation and budget bills will mean to the American middle class and poor.

I am on record in support of keeping government running. I voted four time during April 7th and 8th to allow a vote on a clean, straightforward short-term extension of funding at current levels to allow time for negotiation on a final deal for the balance of funding for FY2011. The Republicans would not allow this commonsense approach; instead we finally were given a chance to vote on a resolution that provided a short-term extension with another \$2 billion in cuts. This time the cuts came from needed investments in transportation infrastructure and HUD Public Housing. This included cuts for airport facilities, transit programs, and rail projects. These are exactly the wrong kind of cut to make at this time, when we should be investing in infrastructure to help create jobs.

On Wednesday, April 13, we will be voting on a bill containing \$39 billion in cuts to fund the balance of 2011. My priorities are to help the middle class and create jobs. I will be looking at the details on those cuts before making a final decision on how to vote on that bill.